

CURRENTS



Take it to the Bank

Work by Relay Technicians Hilly Dean Waldman and Artie Rendina to better protect transformers resulted in a \$100,000 annual cost savings.

Better Protection. Bigger Savings.



The new microprocessor-based protective relay installed at Hillburn Substation.

In upgrading the outdated communication equipment between Hillburn and South Mahwah substations, a team consisting of Transmission & Substation Engineering and Substation Operations, ended up with better protection for our substation banks and greater cost optimization for our business.

“From the Hillburn Substation to the South Mahwah Substation, the phone lines for the relay protection scheme were awful. We would be out here all the time re-setting the alarms. So, our engineer spec'd out this communication box. We verified that it could work with our equipment, and now instead of a copper line we have a cheaper, more modern fiber communication line,” explained Relay Substation Manager **RJ Mower**.

The switch from a copper to a T1 fiber communication line and an electromechanical relay to a microprocessor-based relay results in communications between the two substations being delivered faster and more reliably while also accounting for \$68,000 in annual savings.

“It's more reliable equipment, more reliable communication, faster operation and less cost outlay for O&R. It's just better all the way around,” added Relay Technician Chief, **Hilly Dean Waldman**. He also spoke to the big picture of the upgraded circuit protection, “The new relay is just a better way to protect these banks. The communication between the two substations is lightning fast, it can react in a matter of milliseconds and, believe it or not, those milliseconds equate to an eternity when you have a large electrical fault.” In addition to the savings that resulted from upgraded communication equipment there is also a significant savings in terms of false alarms.

“The older equipment was so trouble prone that it would go into alarm very often and the system operator would have no choice but to call the relay standby crew,” said Hilly. “When the alarm would trigger on the off hours, the standby crew would respond and trouble shoot station equipment to locate a possible fault,” added RJ.

Reducing the number of false alarms is resulting in an annual cost savings of approximately \$32,000. For more context on what that looks like; in the nine months prior to the upgrade there were 27 trouble alarms and in the three months after - zero.

Savings like these are what Business Cost Optimization (BCO) is all about. Have a savings idea or want to learn more about what our company is doing to boost business continuity and sustainability? Search BCO on *Conor* to learn more and to submit your ideas.



Since rolling out our BCO initiative in spring of 2018, employees have identified approximately \$15 million in savings. The ‘big picture’ goal through 2024 is to absorb the typical 3% annual budget increase and keep our operations and maintenance (O&M) budget flat. This will help us minimize bill impact to our customers for the next five years.

A New Year For APACE

On January 23, employees from Orange & Rockland and Con Edison filled the Edison Room at 4 Irving Place to celebrate Lunar New Year with the Asian Professional Alliance of Con Edison (APACE). The event, which welcomed both current and potential new members, continued the efforts by APACE to cultivate an inclusive environment for all company employees through career development, cultural awareness and community involvement. O&R Vice President of Customer Service **Christina Ho** delivered the keynote which focused on the importance of cultural traditions and the value of Employee Resource Groups (ERGs). "Cultural elements like the zodiac and the celebration of the Lunar New Year are a special part of what makes communities like this amazing. Sharing practices and traditions of our heritage with each other and those who are curious creates a place to learn and feel a sense of belonging."

If you would like to know more about APACE, email: asianerg@coned.com.



From left, Customer Energy Services' **Gigi Anicete-Quijano**, O&R President and CEO **Bob Sanchez**, O&R Vice President of Customer Service, **Christina Ho**, New Business Services' **Becky Deng**, Customer Energy Services' **Jade Fell** and Director, Ethics and Business Standards' **Mike Santos**.

A Milestone Move



Transformer en route to permanent foundation.

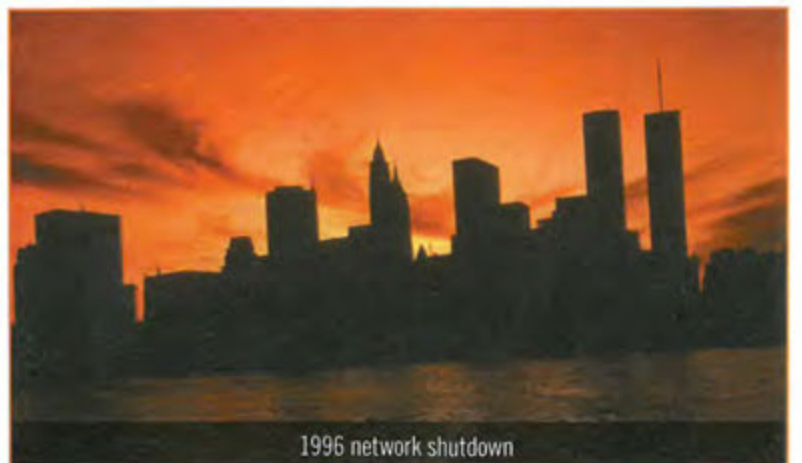
Over the course of three days in January one of our newest and largest transformers, a fully assembled - 300 ton-piece of equipment, completed a journey of nearly 500 feet to its permanent pad inside Ramapo Substation. "This was a major collaborative effort by the team and with very specialized equipment. This move will go down in O&R history as one of our largest ever," said Project Manager Gerard Friedler. He also spoke to the challenges in transporting a fully assembled transformer. "It's not common but it's been done. We received a lot of professional input, both internal and external. We came up with a plan and we executed that plan." Through a deliberate process, the teams involved made use of a jack and slide system to raise the transformer onto hydraulic rails, allowing it to slide some 40 feet onto two double wide hydraulic trailers. From there, the trailers made a slow crawl downhill and delivered the transformer to its permanent home. Kudos to all teams involved: O&R's Project Management, Construction Management, Engineering, Substation Operation, EHV, EH&S and the ECC. Contractors included Royal SMIT, J Supor, J Fletcher Creamer, Peak Engineering and OTC. Keep an eye on *Conor* and *Currents* this spring for installation updates.

Lessons Learned In Energy

Visit the **Major Events Library** on *Conor* for lessons learned from the energy industry's most trying times.

From Chernobyl in 1986 to East Harlem in 2014, the Major Events Library allows us to look at and learn from the most crucial and costly events in the history of our industry. The library offers timelines, key details and summaries of lessons learned from over 40 major events that shaped the future of the energy industry and in some cases the world at large.

Using these lessons from the past helps to ensure employees are continuously improving and helping our company become an industry-wide leader in Safety Culture & Operational Excellence.



1996 network shutdown

The State of Our Company



Join our President and CEO **Bob Sanchez** to hear how we've been performing, and what's ahead for O&R.

Thursday, February 27
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SVOC Auditorium

The session will be simulcast to West Nyack, Blue Hill, Blooming Grove and Middletown. Reserve your seat today by emailing SOC@oru.com. Seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be sure to indicate in your email which location you will be attending.

2020 Ethics Council Members

Voice your ethical questions or concerns to O&R's Business Ethics Council (BEC) members. This team provides the company with insight and feedback on ethical issues. Membership is made up of union and management employees representing a cross-section of O&R.



Kimberly Altomonte
 Project Management
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2481



Karen Galeazzi
 Ethics Office
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2163



Kristina Bourque
 Control Center
 Spring Valley
 845-577-3261



Michelle Gionta
 Gas Emergency Response & Gas Services
 Spring Valley
 845-577-3014



Barbara Cassano
 HR Wellness
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2615



Rebecca Gold
 Customer Assistance
 Spring Valley
 845-434-4100



Lisa Cuthane
 Strategic Partnerships
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2597



Vontelle McCall
 Financial Services
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2669



Kashmira Daly
 Project Management
 Spring Valley
 845-577-3200



Anthony Velazquez
 Distribution Engineering
 Spring Valley
 845-577-3195



David Erickson
 Underground Operations
 Middletown
 845-741-7149



Theresa Vozzolo
 Project Management
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2454



Nicholas Fornario
 Gas Dispatch
 Spring Valley
 845-577-3094



Caitlin Zungoli
 Financial Services
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2505

Come to the Home Show



Visit O&R at the 33rd Suburban Home Show on **February 21-23** at Rockland Community College.

Go to **Announcements** on **Conor** to print your **FREE** tickets.

BEC Emeritus Members

Jeremy Baisley
 Customer Service
 Blooming Grove
 845-577-4913

Jon Hilowitz
 Customer Energy Svcs.
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2423

Brittany Rose
 Customer Service
 SVOC
 845-577-3806

James Carbone
 Project Mgmt.
 Port Jervis
 845-858-0014

Mark Impomeni
 Safety
 SVDC
 845-577-3277

Paula Sklavenitis
 Stores
 Middletown
 845-577-8926

Yvonne Doxy
 Talent Mgmt.
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2741

Joshua O'Neill
 Human Resources
 Blue Hill
 845-577-2757

Tracy Strang
 Eastern Overhead
 West Nyack
 845-577-3143

Charlie Haas
 Facilities & Svcs.
 Middletown
 845-342-8917

Krystyna M. Romas
 Operations
 SVOC
 845-577-2465



GOT NEWS?

Share employee highlights, news or story leads with *Currents*.

Contact **Andrew Cantone**

cantonea@oru.com or ext. 2056